



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/masshealth



Eligibility Operations Memo 08-15
December 15, 2008

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Russ Kulp, Director, MassHealth Operations

RE: **Medex Premium Rate Increase**

Introduction

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has received approval from the Division of Insurance on the following premium rates for all of its nongroup Medex plans: Medex Gold, Medex Silver, Medex Standard, Medex Basic, Medex Bronze, Medex Core, and Medex Core Plus, effective January 1, 2009.

Rate Changes and PACES Codes

The Medex plans, PACES codes, old and new quarterly rates, and new monthly premiums appear in the chart below. The new monthly premium is the amount allowed as a patient-paid amount (PPA) deduction after other deductions that get priority under our regulations at 130 CMR 520.026. Fees for special billing arrangements that cause a premium to exceed these amounts are not allowable PPA deductions.

Important: Correct usage of PACES codes prevents values greater than the maximum premium amount from being entered. Workers can enter an amount that is less than the current maximum premium amount to calculate a retroactive PPA.

Medex Plan	PACES Code	2008 Quarterly Rate	2009 Quarterly Rate	2009 Monthly Premium
Basic	1	\$1,053.45	\$1,053.45	\$351.15
Bronze	2	\$ 487.95	\$ 486.78	\$162.26
Gold	3	\$2,029.59	\$1,997.10	\$665.70
Standard	4	\$1,433.79	\$1,425.69	\$475.23
Core Plus	6	\$ 474.96	\$ 462.36	\$154.12
Core	7	\$ 263.16	\$ 257.76	\$ 85.92
Silver	8	\$1,494.30	\$1,472.67	\$490.89

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**Rate Changes and
PACES Codes
(cont.)**

Medex Basic, Gold, Silver, Core Plus, and Standard Plans are closed to new members. The monthly premiums for every plan except Medex Basic are lower. The Medex Basic premium remains the same as in 2008.

System Changes

Community MassHealth cases with Medex coding will be updated with the new premium amounts for both MA21 and PACES.

Long-term-care MassHealth cases with Medex coding will also be updated with the new premium amounts by the system. MassHealth will recalculate their PPAs in January 2009.

PPA Notices

During the month of January 2009, MassHealth will mail system-generated notices containing information about the new PPAs to affected long-term-care members, conservators, and nursing facilities.

Reports

The PACES system will issue the following two reports about the Medex premium rate increase.

- The first report will list updated long-term-care members with their old and new Medex premiums and old and new PPAs.
 - The second report will be an update-exception report that identifies members with Medex premiums on file that do not correspond to the Medex plan for which the member is coded.
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Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.
